

Sample 703

CURIOUS and AUTHENTIC
MEMOIRS

Concerning a late

PEACE,

Concluded between the

ROOKS and JACKDAWS.

Extracted from the

GENERAL HISTORY

OF THE

Annual Assembly of BIRDS,

AND

Other Undoubted Authorities.

L O N D O N:

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CUTTING AND PAPERING

MEMOIRS

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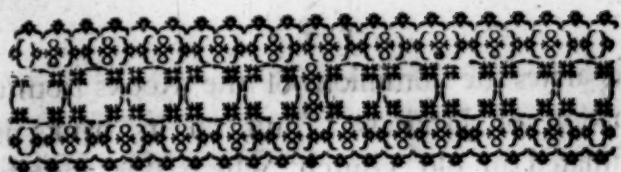
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W. G. O. O. W. S.

Other Publications and more



AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS, &c.

IN the county of Norfolk there is a very beautiful common, finely variegated with a delightful turf, and clumps of spreading trees, which grow in different parts of it, and on one side form a noble grove of tall elms and oaks: These venerable trees from time immemorial have been inhabited by a race of Rooks, who here form a numerous feathered nation by themselves: It is disputed by the learned who was the founder of their monarchy; suffice it to say they were in a most flourishing condition at the time of which these memoirs speak. Their dominion extended over all the grove, and the several clumps abovementioned, besides which territories, they possessed several thriving colonies, of which I shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

A river winds its meandering course through the middle of the common, and

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seve-

separates the dominions of the Rooks from a nation of Jackdaws: Just on its banks is situated an old church, where this spritely tribe take up their residence. Their territory spreads on the river to a greater extent than that of the Rooks, and like them they possess colonies, tho' not so flourishing, but their pretensions are very large and unknown.

These two respectable nations, had always been hereditary enemies; and so jealous were they of each other's power, that no sooner did one seem to preponderate but it was immediately attacked by the other, through concern for the *ballance of power*.

The Rooks were always esteemed to be a generous, brave, and learned race; and remarkable to a proverb for their love of liberty. Their government is monarchical, but limited: a young Rook, whose ancestors came out of G - - - y, was at this time their king; his power is but confined, compared with that of some monarchs, but he has every prerogative necessary for doing good; the whole executive part of the government being lodged in his hands. The legislative rests in an assembly or senate of Rooks, who form two trees, the one consists of nobility, created

created by the king from among his subjects ; the other elected by them ; every tree in his majesty's dominions chusing two members, who form together what is called the lower tree ; the nobility composing the upper one. A most spacious oak is the residence of his majesty ; in its several branches he has many nests for himself, family, and numerous attendants ; two others are appointed for the two branches of the senate.

The Jackdaws were quite different ; like the Rooks they were formerly a free nation ; but had not like them the courage to preserve their liberties. A Jackdaw of middle age was their king, of an antient family, who had long reigned over them : He was absolute in his power ; his palace was a turret on one corner of the steeple, with many noble holes for the nests of his majesty's servants and slaves.

As to the colonies of the two kingdoms ; about two miles from the common on the bank of the river, was situated a farm house and yard, &c. with a lawn before it, inclosed by a hedge ; on one side of it was a row of trees inhabited by the colonists of the Rooks ; and to this yard and lawn they carried

ried on a considerable trade for sticks for building, moss, down, worms, &c. &c. claiming the sole possession of the said yard and lawn: On the other side of the hedge was a field with a small ruin in it, possessed by the Jackdaws; this field yielded them but little profit, but they preserved it many years; in hopes of incroaching on the colony of the Rooks, and driving them out.

The boundaries of the two colonies were never perfectly fixed; the Rooks said the hedge was the limit; but the Jackdaws denied it, and had even taken possession of some pieces of an old stone wall that remained here and there, on the other side, besides the hedge, there was a coppice ran under it which occasioned these differencies; however the Jackdaws encroached, and pushed themselves so far into the Rooks territories, that their whole nation was alarmed; and this was the occasion of thé war.

But before I proceed, I cannot help observing for the sake of partiality, that all the tracts of land which formed the colonies of the two nations, belonged in fact to neither of them, but to a nation of Sparrows, who inhabited the hedges, barns, &c. but being
weak-

weaker than either of the new comers, no sooner was their country discovered; but they were almost drove out of it, and the Rooks and Jackdaws then quarreled between themselves who should possess most of it.

When the Jackdaws had carried their encroachments so far that a war between them and the Rooks was become inevitable, the state of the latter nation was rather a little perplexed. It is impossible to give a just description in a few words of their constitution, I have already sketched the outline; but I should observe that the king notwithstanding his prerogatives, is obliged to employ whatever minister can *manage* the lower tree; for as they grant the supplies, unless they are kept in proper humour, the grand machine of government cannot be conducted.

For some years an old *Buzard** had been prime minister to his majesty the king of the Rooks.

By several means he had got a vast interest in the lower tree, by which means he preserved his

* After many years intense application to the Rooks language, and customs, I do not yet thoroughly comprehend their titles of honour, but they are drawn in allusion to other birds, so I have distinguished all their eminent Rooks by the names of those birds which the allusion pointed out. This noble's name is Brklmbrkr, i. e. Buzard.

his power : Those means were not the most honourable, nor greatly to the credit of the nation. The king has an ample revenue granted him for his family expences, infinitely more than necessary ; nothing less than a thousand Cockchafers wings * yearly ; much the greatest part of which the minister applies in pensions, salaries, &c. &c. among the members of the lower tree ; for what purpose I leave the reader to judge.

No Rook in the king's dominions could be more improper than - - - to conduct his majesty's affairs : He had no species of abilities ; no parts ; no penetration ; nor even application to business : He was a great noble without dignity, and a minister without abilities ; he never attempted any thing but he was sure to blunder ; and he never acted wrong without persisting in his mistake. Pusillanimous, timid, and irresolute, he possessed neither the courage nor resolution of his brother Rooks. He was hated by some, but despised by all : He had not one talent to make a proper use of power, nor one quality to render it agreeable ; he was a composition of pride and meanness ; arrogance and

* Their current coin.

and flattery; truth and fallity: He never refused a promise, nor hardly ever performed one: In his private life he was extravagant and noted for giving prodigious entertainments at a monstrous expence; he would entertain with the most curious kinds of worms from a great distance, cockchafers brains, the most elegant grubs, catterpillars, nay sometimes, the maggots bred in a dead pheasant, which are excessively expensive. The publick money was not always thought safe in his hands, and what gave suspicion, he expended no less than two hundred cockchafers wings, in adorning a nest of his.

The Jackdaws who were always reputed a most cunning nation, could not have seized a better opportunity of incroaching on the territories of the Rooks; they knew Buzard would do all that was possible to preserve the peace which then subsisted between the two nations; as he had no abilities for a war: Accordingly they did every thing that was possible to strengthen their colony, and even to render it formidable: The Jackdaw ministry sent an army of an hundred Jackdaws thither with orders to take full possession of all the pieces of the wall, that were between the two colonies, and to fortify them: Continued
flights

flights of Jackdaws were sent with materials : On each piece of wall they, with incredible dilligence erected fortified nests with mud, sticks, &c. and even had the assurance to post themselves on some places, which were evidently in the colony of the Rooks.

On the news of these encroachments the whole nation of Rooks were roused with indignation, and were open in their dislike of their pusillanimous minister. All to a Rook insisted on a war, and Buzard much against his inclination was obliged to enter into one : Accordingly war was declared against the Jackdaws. An army of Rooks flew immediately to defend their colonists, but it was too weak for their defence, and the success was almost wholly on the side of the enemy. The Rooks however made an attack on one of the Jackdaws posts, but after a long and bloody engagement, were defeated, and lost twenty killed and seventeen wounded.

This ill success increased the clamours of the whole nation ; and they rose still higher, on a second misfortune : The Rooks possessed a little island in the river, on which grew a very large ash tree ; in this tree they had a very strongly fortified nest, which took up
almost

almost a whole branch; very large twigs were extended, and entwined among the boughs, to form a foundation; then a wall of sticks, wool and mud, was raised round it, and four apertures left for entrance; it contained six Rooks, who had magazines of all necessary provision laid in; at each corner was a strong adjoining nest, by way of bastions; the whole connected, and covered with a roof of twigs: Twelve nests were built round the fortified one, by way of out-works, in each of which were two Rooks.

Such was the fortress which the Jackdaws determined to attack: They kept their preparations so secret, that neither Buzard nor Goose knew any thing of the design; till a flight of them actually light upon the boughs of the ash, to attack the fortress. The governor of it was an old superannuated Rook, that could hardly fly from bough to bough; but he had under him a young active one, that did his duty for him; a gallant defence was made; nor did the tree surrender, till the Jackdaws had quite demolished the roof and outworks, and were on the point of storming the grand nest.

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At home Goofe sent a flight of Rooks to relieve the tree, under the command of Pidgeon: But the choice was ill made, and when Pidgeon came within fight of the Jackdaws, he drew up his Rooks for a battle; but being a rank coward, flew off presently, and left the tree to shift for itself. This behaviour threw the whole nation into a flame; nothing would satisfy the mob but the blood of Pidgeon; a court of Rooks sat on him; he was condemned to have his brains picked out by twelve executioners, his nest pulled to pieces, and his name rendered infamous. As for the old Rook, who made a gallant defence, he was raised to a high rank, and had his health toasted in rain water all over the kingdom.

These national misfortunes threatened to put a period to Buzard's power. His interest in the lower tree declined; there were several opposing Rooks in it, who thwarted all his measures, and who were extremely popular in the nation; they were esteemed patriots, and the nation wished for nothing more than to have them in the ministry. At the head of them was Magpye, who was a very great orator, and took all occasions to chatter on
public

public affairs. ' How long (said he) shall
 ' this great, this flourishing, this formidable
 ' kingdom, continue the slave of pusillanimity,
 ' impotence, and vice ! How long shall the
 ' nation be disgraced ; his majesty dishonoured ;
 ' shall we for ever be governed ; shall king,
 ' upper tree, and lower tree, for ever be led
 ' by the bill by Buzard and Turkey ? For
 ' shame ! O Rooks ! Now is the time, when
 ' your country should rise formidable from
 ' the peace, and oppose the daring Jackdaws,
 ' who have forgot the terror of the name of
 ' Rook. Down with that knavish faction
 ' which blinds the eyes of royalty, and whirls
 ' the nation to ruin. Let us raise some abler
 ' Rook to conduct our affairs ; let us conduct
 ' the war on a national plan ; let us form no
 ' unnatural connections ; never engage in a
 ' stone war, that *bush in the feathers* of a mini-
 ' ster. In a word, let us rise once more our-
 ' selves ; prove the defence of our friends ;
 ' the terror of our enemies.'

The whole assembly of Rooks caw'd approbation ; and Magpye was reckoned a greater orator than ever. But it is necessary to understand his speech to explain the stone war. The reader should know, that about a

mile from the common, was a spot of ground, in which grew high trees, which a nation of Jays inhabited; it was intersected with several walls and ruins: The Rooks had some pretensions, friends, and connections among the Jays; and the Jackdaws having the same, whenever a war happened between the two nations, they always endeavoured to make it the theatre of it; for the walls, &c. were so many posts for them, and gave them great advantages: And yet the Rook ministry had frequently been so imprudent as to engage there; but always with certain loss: this gave occasion to Magpye's calling it a *busb in the feathers* of a minister. Buzard had already formed some connections there, with the advice of Turkey.

Turkey's was a mixed character; he had some abilities, but would give up all appearance of them in company of Buzard: He pretended to be far his inferior, and by a strange conduct, sometimes guided him, and made him his tool. He would often praise the sleekness of Buzard's feathers; the graceful prominence of his bill; and flatter his wonderful understanding; his vast ministerial abilities; and by such means, would
fully

fully serve his own ends. However, the eloquence of Magpye overturned all their machinations, and prevented them from ruining their country, notwithstanding the assistance of Vulture : A bird that had not one good or honest quality in his - - - : He was a composition of all the blackest - - - that ever disgraced the feather'd species ; a rook of some abilities, but all made the tools of his - - - ; hated, despised, and avoided by all h - - st rooks : He turned politician, and when he could no longer ruin private Rooks, he endeavoured at that of his c - - - y : He had neither - - - - - to the sovereign Rook, love for his relations, nor friendship for the - - - - ; but hated all, as much as he was d - - - d by all ; except others as bad as himself.

Every body agreed that no Rook in the kingdom was so capable to succeed to Buzard's power, as Magpye ; accordingly he and his friends were seated in authority, and had the conduct of the war. Never man was so hurt at this change of ministers, as Owl : Sorry I am that so many dark characters croud upon my pen so fast. Owl, was a Rook of very great importance in the state ; not from his
parts

parts and understanding, for he had neither ; but his great possessions. On one corner of the common was a little nook of turf, on which grew several handsome trees, all the property of Owl, and his meer dependants ; besides which, he took care to have nests wherever he could purchase boughs, in almost all the trees of the kingdom ; so that he influenced several elections of the members of the lower tree ; and by this means grew of such importance, that the ministerial Rooks were always obliged to satisfy his demands, which sometimes were monstrously exorbitant ; indeed Magpye, indulged him less than most of them, for he detested his character, and when he came into power, he told his majesty, that if Owl was permitted to domineer in the advising nest, he would not conduct his affairs. I cannot wonder at him, for Owl was a composition of pride, arrogance, and haughtiness ; besides all which, his brain was thought a little touched, which was occasioned by some private concerns ; but this was a surmise ; indeed a very probable one.

Magpye was no sooner seated in power, than all the whole nation of Jackdaws trembled at his name : He immediately encreased
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the national forces, far beyond whatever had been known before ; decrees were issued out, insomuch that above three hundred Rooks were excercised in all the evolutions of their wings, and ready to attack the enemy ; a vast force was sent to defend the colony, which was in the utmost danger, from the violent attacks of an army of Jackdaws. These were drove back with loss ; and the victors meeting with a large party of the enemy, who were trading with the Sparrows for Straws, &c. they were all made prisoners, and brought home with several bundles of straws, to the no small exultation of the whole kingdom of Rooks.

The conquerors not only repelled the incroachments of the Jackdaws, but by degrees made themselves masters of all the stone wall, which they had fortified ; and concluding a treaty with the Sparrows, they attacked the enemy's colony itself, and met with great success, so that most part of their whole field was conquered. These successes were in a good measure owing to Thrush ; a Rook of no great eminence before the war ; but, having long lived among the Sparrows, he made many connections with them ; built his nest
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in one of their bushes, was so gallant a Rook, that it was as much as ever the cock Sparrows could do to keep their hens chaste : and as for the young ones, Thrush, by their means, produced an almost new race of Sparrows in his progeny. Magpye when he understood how great an interest Thrush had among the whole nation of Sparrows, employed him in preserving the friendship between them and the Rooks ; and even placed him at the head of an army against the Sparrows that were in alliance with the Jackdaws ; in which quality he behaved very well, and gained a great victory over them.

Magpye, although he had pretty well fixed his power, yet there were several Rooks that at first opposed his measures ; the opposition of Linnet was not of very great consequence ; it resulted in some measure from revenge ; for Magpye had always opposed him when he was in power, and for that end had even sometimes joined with his own enemy, Vulture ; however, Linnet's opposition was silenced with a p - - - -.

About three miles from the common is situated a large garden, belonging to a neighbouring gentleman : The Rooks and Jackdaws,

daws, for several years, had discovered the way to it; and there being in a large shrubbery on one side of it, some tall ash trees, the two nations made settlements, which were of immense importance; for the neighbouring nations, as well as themselves, were supplied with caterpillars, beans and peas, almost solely from thence: These three most valuable commodities being only in the hands of the Rooks and Jackdaws, they put what price they pleased on them: Formerly the Rooks had much the best situated trees, and enjoyed by far the most considerable caterpillar trade; but the Jackdaws, by their unwearied diligence in building new nests, gained the best Part of the trade to themselves; so that the Rooks, after they had served their home consumption, did not export more than fetched five hundred cockchafers wings a year; while the Jackdaws received two thousand for the commodities they exported of the growth of caterpillar land.

This vast superiority of the enemy occasioned Magpye's determining to attack them there. Accordingly he sent out a large army of Rooks for that purpose; the trees of the enemy were very strongly fortified, but no-

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thing

thing could resist the valour of the Rooks; so that, after a long engagement, one of the principal trees of the Jackdaws was taken.

This vast success greatly advanced the reputation of the nation, and the name of Magpye was resounded from one end of the kingdom to the other. He certainly was a Rook of very great abilities, perhaps greater than any other in the nation; he roused the sinking courage of his brother Rooks, and while he conducted the internal affairs of the kingdom with the greatest unanimity, he made use of the latent force of his country, and formed and executed schemes, which will for ever be admired.

One great difficulty he laboured under when he came first into the administration: Although his ministry was pretty absolute, yet he was obliged either to resign his power, or humour the determined inclination his sovereign had for a stone war: To do the former he had no notion; for no mortal loved power better than he; and if he came into the latter, he knew he must act diametrically opposite, not only to his conscience, but all his former harangues; however he undertook it, and accordingly went to the lower tree,
and

and demanded no less than fix thousand wings to carry on a stone war: All were surprized; but Magpye, smoothing his feathers, assured them: " That he heartily regretted his ever
 " having declared against the expediency of
 " a stone war; but that an opposing patriot,
 " and a minister of state, must ever see things
 " quite differently; he was sure, that the colony could only be conquered in stone-land;
 " and that such a war would divert the Jackdaw forces from relieving, either their settlements at the farm-yard, or caterpillar-land." In short, fix thousand wings were granted, and the nation was once more embarked in a stone war, which almost ruined it. The reader should know, that Magpye carried on this war in a successful manner, by borrowing prodigious sums every year; successive administrations had all acted in the same manner, so that the national debt, at the time I am speaking of, amounted to near an hundred thousand wings: A prodigious sum, the interest of which could not have been paid, had the Rooks possessed a less extensive trade.

Magpye, for the better carrying on the stone war, made a most ignominious treaty
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with the king of the Eagles, a warlike nation on the confines of stone land ; this treaty had no effects that are worth naming ; but Magpye, out of his abundant generosity, gave him a yearly subsidy of six hundred wings, meerly that his victories over his own enemies might add to the number of *extraordinary* memoirs, published during his administration.

This active minister pushed on the war with infinite vigour, which gave a general satisfaction to the whole nation of Rooks. Pelican, who commanded their army in stone land, gained a great victory there ; he was certainly a general of abilities, but had very little merit in this battle, the Jackdaw commander surprized him, and attacked his army while he was asleep ; but by the unconquerable bravery of several Rooks in his army, he repelled their attacks, and defeated them. The greatest part of his army was auxiliary Jays ; but Crow commanded some Rooks in it. Pelican and Crow had before disliked each other, and quarrelled, so the former took this opportunity to ruin Crow, and asserted he did not do his duty. Magpye

pye unjustly gave into Pelican's resentment, and, poor Crow, though as great a Rook as either of them, was dismissed: Nay, he was condemned to have the two finest feathers in each wing plucked out with dishonour. Wag-tail succeeded him.

About this time his most sacred majesty the king of the Rooks departed this life: He was in his nest, and was unexpectedly choaked with swallowing a large worm; he fell out of his upper nest into the lower one, to the great dismay of his faithful attendants. He was a monarch greatly beloved by many: All the gay, young, and lively Rooks of both sexes now expected a court that would not be absurdly tied down to the lowest forms. He was succeeded by his son, a young Rook of great hopes.

The Rooks are certainly a very religious nation; for every tree in their dominions has a nest set aside for the celebration of their public worship, and stipends are paid their priests; above these are a set of venerable Rooks, created by the king, for the good of religion; but, in general, their only business is to fly idly about with their artificial wings, to attend
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the levies of ministers, and to vote in the upper tree, as Buzard bids them. Though Magpye was, in fact, prime minister, yet Buzard was still in a great post, and had the naming to all religious preferments; to Buzard therefore, and Magpye, Raven addressed his letter.

This letter made some noise, therefore I take notice of it; it was touching the conduct of the war, and advising the two ministers to push the war in Stone Land. This was contrary to his opinion, when he opposed the court in the lower tree; but turning courtier, his maxims altered. Raven was for many years considered as a true patriot, and a Rook of untainted integrity; but he proved how much the Rooks were mistaken in him the first moment it was in his power: He then shewed how despicable a soul he possessed; he was bribed to give over opposing, and preferred to a seat in the upper tree. From that time all true Rooks contemned him; he lived a long while in all the silence of a wretch, whose brethren no longer would look on him; and after several years of ignominy, had the presumption to pretend to instruct Magpye:

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He still remains a despicable monument of disappointed ambition.

Magpye still continued to push the war with the utmost vigour; determining to extirpate the Jackdaws from all their settlements at the farm yard, he sent a great force against the strongest fortified tree in all their colony. This Army was commanded by Hawk, a young warrior of most consummate genius, and undaunted resolution: He met with innumerable difficulties in attacking the enemy; their tree was so strongly fortified, that hardly a branch was left without a nest in it; a very able Jackdaw commanded in it; and it was not till after repeated attacks, and long consideration, that Hawk could form an advantageous disposition to assault the tree; at last he effected it, which bringing on a battle, the Jackdaws were defeated, and their capital tree taken, but not without the loss of the brave Hawk. The command on his death fell to Parrot, a Rook who had the appearance of abilities, but wanted the reality; he had all the impudence necessary to impose on fools; but wise men despised him: He had a consummate vanity, and the envy to write to the ministry an account of his proceedings, with-

without ever naming the brave Hawk, whose valour had left him nothing but to reap the effects of it, but far without deserving them : He was a composition of meanness and affected popularity : He valued himself upon his wit, which was gross, and his satire spared none, not even the worthiest and most respectable characters ; such a Rook well deserves to be satirized himself.

The loss of this strong tree annihilated the power of the Jackdaws at the farm, and the Rook colony now throve surprisingly : The same success attended their arms wherever they encountered their enemies. In the country of the Wrens, a vast way from the common, they likewise extirpated the Jackdaws ; so that all their commerce was ruined, and that of the Rooks flourished accordingly : Vast quantities of many curious ornaments for their nests, were imported from Wren-land ; multitudes of new trees on the Rooks side of the River were inhabited ; vast nests for merchandize were constructed ; and prodigious barrack nests for the troops built ; new species of luxury flowed in from all parts the Rooks traded to : Never was the nation so rich and flourishing.

The

The king of the Rooks had several attendants of the most noble families, who were to wait on his new ---. One was to smooth his feathers when he rose of a morning; another to make him a bed of down; a third to introduce all to him, who demanded audiences; a fourth was to pick the dirt from between his majesty's toes; a fifth to fetch him provision, &c. &c. They were headed by Peacock, who was a wonderful favourite with his master, but not with his subjects.

Peacock was a handsome Rook, but very 1 - - - -s, and report said he made free now and then with too high game; however, his master was fond of him, and while he preserved that favour, he was very little solicitous about what the world said of him. He gave great reason for the general dislike that was formed against him, being a most arrogant, insolent, supercilious Rook; his haughtiness made him hated by all the great servants of the king. He was a bird of no genius, no abilities; in short, nothing but a *certain obstinacy* could keep him where his impudence had placed him; but he was obstinate to the highest degree.

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About this time the Goldfinches, a nation who bordered on the territories of the Jackdaws, pretending to take umbrage at the great success of the Rooks, were so absurd as to quarrell with them; the Jackdaws had sued for peace, which Magpye was very willing to listen to; but, in the course of the negotiation, perceiving that the Jackdaws were trifling, and that they expected the assistance of the Goldfinches, he proposed to the other servants of his majesty, to anticipate the designs of the latter nation, and attack them while they were yet unprepared for war. A noble and most heroic plan; but the king's advisers were of a different opinion, which put Magpye into a terrible passion with them; he chattered at one, pecked at another, and clawed a third; and swore bitterly he would have nothing to say to such a set of dastardly Rooks. "How long," says Owl, "shall we be bully'd by this wretch?" "That wretch," replied Magpye, "is neither afraid, nor ashamed to tell your Owlship, that many a Rook have had their brains picked out * for less than

* The Rooks punishment for traytors; A certain Rook of the first rank, it seems, had been very free in talking to the Embassador, and proved himself a good friend to the Jackdaws.

"you

“ you said to the Jackdaws Embassador at “ Buzard’s.” A most spirited answer to Owl’s hot-headed speech ; he hung down his base head at it, and said no more. Magpye, from that time, would have no more to do with the affairs of the Rooks ; and it gave their whole nation great concern, that he withdrew himself. As he had been so highly advantageous to his country, his master bestowed a pension upon him ; which, however, he might like, he would not have accepted, if he had known what followed ; for Peacock treacherously managed to make him take it in such a manner as to hurt his popularity ; and afterwards, when Magpye came to the grand nest of his master, the - - - turned his back upon him, and would not speak to him ; hard usage for a Rook, who had done him such service ! Magpye justified himself to Ostrich, which was one of the meanest actions of his life.

In one corner of the Rooks dominions, was situated a most enormous oak, surrounded close by other very large trees ; these were all as full of nests as they could hold ; and, to speak metaphorically, might be considered as the capital city of the kingdom ; one part of it was inhabited chiefly by traders, among

whom Ostrich was considerable: This city of Rooks was a receptacle of all the wretches, vagabonds, villains, and cheating traders in the nation: It was filled with nothing but meanness, vice, luxury, and corruption; in short, it might be considered as the cankered, peccant part of the whole body politic of the Rooks; but withal exceeding rich. It abounded with usurers, who would lend their cock-chafers wings to the Devil, if he bid half per cent. more than a minister. Ostrich was a considerable Rook among them, and had great possessions in Caterpillar-land; he was a haughty, vain, insolent Rook, and far beneath Magpye's notice, who would not have stooped to justify himself to him, but for his popularity in the capital.

After Magpye's career was over, a new ministry was formed; the war was extended, by the Goldfinches assisting the Jackdaws: The ministers carried it on with very good success; indeed no thanks were due to them for it; for Magpye had sketched out the whole out-line, so that they could only have the honour of filling it up; but they had the impudence to assume the whole credit of it. Before I proceed, I should take notice of an
 affair

affair at home. As the Rook was a young Rook of great parts ; it was thought highly necessary to look out for a young female Bird for a wife for him ; it was supposed he had a little *tendresse* for a female Rook in his grand nest, of the name of Nightingale, who was very handsome, had a fine bill, shining feathers, genteel legs, &c. In short, perfectly well formed, and was withal mighty lively, and high born ; but, for particular reasons, it did not prove a match. Nightingale was afterwards wedded to Tom-tit, an insignificant Rook, without so much as a *motion*. But the Rook was afterwards joined to a young Jay of surprizing spriteliness, wit, and understanding.

Heron enjoyed a considerable post under the king of the Rooks. He was a great, unwieldy, aukward Rook, his mind of as clumsy a make as his body ; he was suspected to preserve *decorum* no more than Peacock. - - - Little deserving of his post, his promotion was as unexpected as it was surprizing. When the messengers went to inform him of their master's pleasure, he was found laying like a lump of lead in his nest fast asleep : He possessed the genius necessary to see, that the
king's

king's nest was clean that he eat in ; ——— to observe that the royal victuals were well dished, ——— the waiters properly dressed ; he had also some notion of œconomy in his own affairs, and thought that he should behave in the same manner in his master's household as his own ; so he made some very unpleasant regulations ; though, perhaps, they might be reasonable enough.

Another great post was possessed by Swan ; a very different character from the foregoing. He was a very considerable member of the upper tree ; a noble, beneficent, generous, and worthy Rook : If he was not a bird of very shining parts, he had very useful ones ; and he had a good heart, as well as an able head : His integrity made him not only beloved, but respected by the whole nation ; and it gave them great pleasure to think, that their master had at least one servant, in whom all parties could put their trust.

The ministry continued the war with vigour on Magpye's plan, they made two conquests in caterpillar land of immense consequence ; one of them almost ruined the Goldfinches, and the other was from the Jackdaws : The former were tired of the war
al-

already, and repented of their having been so imprudent as to engage in it : They hoped to reimburse themselves by attacking their neighbour the Bullfinches ; but the Rooks, their allies, succoured them in time, and repelled the attempt. The conquests the Rooks had made during this prodigiously expensive war, brought them in such vast riches caterpillars, beans, peas, straws, moss, slime, worms, grubs, &c. &c. &c. that their trade was encreased excessively ; and they served their neighbours with many articles of commerce, which they themselves before took of the Jackdaws. This vast profit made their immense national debt set easy on them ; for their conquests were made at such a prodigious expence, that vast sums were borrowed yearly. The whole nation trembled lest the ministry should sacrifice these acquisitions for the sake of peace on private interests. And their fears were still encreased, when they reflected on former treaties, in which the Jackdaws had generally outwitted their ministers.

Such was the temper of the nation when the Jackdaws monarch again proposed a negotiation for a peace to the Rook ministry,
which

which was eagerly embraced; so a Jackdaw ambassador came to the Rooks to treat, and Owl went on the same errand to the Jackdaw king. The whole nation was alarmed, when they found that Owl was to conduct the treaty; they had no opinion of him; and his having often declared himself a strenuous friend to peace on any terms, terrified them excessively: They were sensible, that the cunning Jackdaws would take advantage of his fiery disposition, and chouse him out of all the acquisitions, which their bravery had gained. The whole kingdom waited with anxious expectation, for the terms of the peace they so much dreaded.

In the mean time, the King of the Rooks had an honour to bestow, which was eagerly desired by all the great Rooks. When any Rook, by a long series of great actions, renders himself worthy of a great reward, among other things, the King adorns their necks with a little string of dried cock-pheasant's eyes to hang round them: This gives them great rank, and is one of the highest honours a Rook can aspire to. The King of the Rooks himself wears it; there was one of these vacant, which a young Rook of the blood
wanted,

wanted, and none could have a better title to it; but Peacock also had a great inclination for it; and had the audacious impudence to ask for it, in prejudice of the young Rook. The king of the Rooks gave no direct answer; but luckily another fell vacant; and so each of them had their necks honourably strung round with pheasant's eyes. —

Soon after this, Peacock was so exulted with his new honour, that he went away directly, and picked Swan most unmercifully; he came by surprize, and plucked out a feather from his wing with all imaginable haughtiness, and gave it to a young Rook, a friend of his.

Among the ministers of the king of the Rooks was Lark, a Rook of an exceeding good character, who added great weight to the ministry by his popularity; the nation put some confidence in him, and he would have had much more, had he not joined in with Peacock. He had applied himself to understand the commercial interests of his country with great care, and had far succeeded in it. He set out in life with, and was the rival of Swallow, a young Rook of consequence; at first it was thought that Swallow was the greater bird; but afterwards abandoning him-

self to all manner of vice and licentiousness, he became a wretch, hated and despised by all ; and Lark, taking a very different course, made a much better public figure ; though *his* private character was very abominable.

Partridge was a Rook of a middling character ; he was celebrated for nothing but his love of good cheer ; as to his abilities, they were very doubtful ; he never shewed any great ones : And though he filled a very high post, can be regarded only as an underling.

At last out came the formidable articles of the peace between the Rooks, Jackdaws, Goldfinches, and Bullfinches. I cannot but give an epitome of these detested articles, so highly injurious to the honour of the name of Rook.

ARTICLE I.

INTRODUCTION.

The king of the Rooks, and the king of the Jackdaws, animated with the warmest reciprocal desire to re-establish harmony, and a lasting union between them, as well for the benefit of the whole species of the feathered kind

kind, as for that of their respective subjects, the Rooks and Jackdaws; and having reflected on the unsuccessful attempt to bring about this great work some time ago, as well as on all points in dispute between the two crowns; and the kings of the Goldfinches and Bullfinches, being also animated with the same sincere desire to restore to their subjects the blessings of peace, have, in conjunction with the before-mentioned monarchs, by mutual consent, agreed on the following articles of peace. For this purpose his majesty the king of the Rooks, has named and authorised the most noble Peacock, his ambassador to the Jackdaw monarch: The king of the Jackdaws, the most noble Martin. And the king of the Bullfinches, Snipe; who, having communicated to each other their full authorities, have agreed on the following articles:

I.

On the immediate ratification of these articles, most cordial love and affection shall be re-established between the nations of the Rooks, Jackdaws, and Goldfinches. Orders shall be sent to their generals commanding their flights of military birds, to cease all quar-



rels ; and, for the future, to live in perfect union with each.

II.

His majesty the king of the Jackdaws, from this time renounces every pretension to his whole late colony at the Farm-yard, and all its dependencies : He does this out of his sincere desire to preserve the peace ; so that, for the future, no differences shall subsist between the two nations : His majesty not only guarantees these dominions to the king of the Rooks ; but also the nook of land by the canal ; and cedes them in full right to the said king of the Rooks. But such of his subjects as remain in the said Farm-yard, and its dependencies, shall have liberty to fly with their effects wherever they please.

III.

The subjects of his Jackdaw majesty shall have the liberty of catching flies on a part of the bank of the canal called Fly-land, and also on the neighbouring fish-pond, on condition that the Jackdaws do not light upon the banks of the said pond ; and they shall, moreover, never fly nearer to the banks than the distance

distance of three feet; nor shall they catch nearer than fifteen feet from the banks of the nook of land mentioned in the second article.

IV.

The king of the Rooks grants to the king of the Jackdaws, in full right, the two willow-trees that grow out of the canal, by way of covert for the Jackdaw fly-catchers; and the Jackdaw king engages, on his royal word, not to build one single fortified nest, but merely such as will serve to refresh the wearied fly-catchers.

V.

The beech-tree, which stands on the banks of the river in the common, shall be put into the state prescribed by former treaties. Only the great nest on it (as it serves merely to secure the inhabited ones, against the violence of the wind) shall be spared.

VI.

That, for the future, not the least shadow of pretence may remain, for disputing about the limits of the settlements of the two nations
in

in the neighbourhood of the Farm-yard: It is agreed, that, from this time, the dominions belonging to both nations shall for ever be separated by the row of Elms, which run from the Farm-yard to the river; and for this purpose the king of the Jackdaws cedes and guarantees, in full right, all the territory on the left side of the said trees, containing an ample wood and a meadow (except one small piece of ruins, which lies on the side, and the little nook on which it is situated, which shall remain to the Jackdaws) to the Rooks; provided that the said Row of Elms be left free to either nation to light upon, particularly those that separate the piece of ruins from the other territories of the Jackdaws. The stipulations concerning the inhabitants of the Farm-yard field also to be in force for these.

VII.

The king of the Rooks consents to restore all the great and important conquests he has made from the Jackdaws in caterpillar-land; consisting not only of the wilderness, but the grass-plot and the left kitchen-garden; but the Rooks shall have eighteen days to fly away with their effects.

VIII. The

VIII.

The king of the Jackdaws guarantees and cedes to the king of the Rooks the two little bean-beds on the right in caterpillar-land. And as to the disputed ones, the Jackdaws shall have the pea-bed, and the Rooks the rest.

IX.

The king of the Rooks shall restore to the Jackdaws the funny tower, and the neighbouring ash-trees, far distant from the banks of the river; and the king of the Jackdaws cedes the neighbouring parks to the Rooks.

X.

The king of the Rooks shall restore in moss-land, all his conquests on the left side of the river. The Jackdaw monarch restores

XI.

The Jackdaw king engages to restore the the strong ash-tree on the bank of the river, in the same state in which it was conquered.

XII. The

XII.

The Jackdaws shall restore all territories belonging to the king of the Rooks in stone-land, and also those of his friendly Jays.

XIII.

On the ratification of these articles the Jackdaws shall evacuate all the territories in stone-land belonging to the king of the Eagles. And the two kings agree not to give any assistance to their respective allies in stone-land.

XIV.

The two small beech-trees, by the large one on the bank of the river, shall immediately be forsaken by the Jackdaws.

XV.

The decision of all the plunder taken from the Goldfinches by the Rooks in time of peace, shall be decided by the professors of law amongst the Rooks.

XVI.

The king of the Rooks shall cause all the fortified nests, which his subjects shall have built

built in the grove of popple-trees in caterpillar-land is to be demolished : And his majesty the king of the Bullfinches shall not, for the future, interrupt the Rooks in breaking and carrying away popple-twigs, nor in building warehouse-nests for holding the same.

XVII.

The king of the Goldfinches desists from all pretension which he may have formed to the right of catching flies on the bank of the canal in fly-land.

XVIII.

The king of the Rooks shall restore to the Goldfinches, all that he has conquered from them in the currant bush-quarter in caterpillar-land.

XIX.

In consequence of the restitution contained in the preceding article, the king of the Goldfinches cedes and guarantees, in full right, to the king of the Rooks, all that his subjects possess in the farm-yard, and neighbourhood, on the Rook-side of the row of Elms. The Goldfinch inhabitants to have

G perfect

perfect liberty to fly, wherever they please, with their effects.

XX.

The king of the Bullfinches, his majesty the king of the Rooks ally, is expressly included in this treaty; and the kings of the Jackdaws and Goldfinches engage to re-establish the antient peace between them and the Bullfinches. They also engage, that all hostilities shall cease between the Jackdaws and Goldfinches, on the one side; and the Bullfinches, and their ally, on the other: And also that all the nests of his majesty the king of the Bullfinches subjects shall be restored, which their late enemies have conquered.

XXI.

All the territories which may any where have been conquered by the kings of the Rooks and Bullfinches, as well as by those of the Jackdaws and Goldfinches, which are not included by name in these articles, shall mutually be restored.

XXII. It

It being very necessary to assign some fixed periods, for the restitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the most high and contracting parties ; it is agreed, that the Rooks and Jackdaws shall immediately proceed to the evacuation of Stone-land.

The little end of the Stone-wall on the Jackdaws side of the river, shall be forsaken by the Rooks, six days after the ratification.

The acquisitions which the Rooks have made from the Jackdaws in Caterpillar-land, shall be restored in three weeks.

The Rooks shall enter into possession of all the cessions made by the Jackdaws, on the side of the Row of Elms, in three weeks.

The Sunny-tower shall be evacuated in three weeks : The Ash-tree, by the Jackdaws, at the same time ; and the latter shall enter into possession of the two Willow-trees in the Canal.

The restitutions in Moss-land shall take place in six weeks.

The Currant-bush-quarter of Caterpillar-land shall be restored in three weeks.

All the fortified nests of the king of the Bullfinches shall be restored immediately.

In consequence of these stipulations, the necessary orders shall be immediately sent, by the most high contracting parties.

XXIII.

All the treaties, of whatever nature they be, which were in force before the present troubles, as well between the kings of the Rooks and Jackdaws, as between the kings of the Rooks and Goldfinches, as also between any of the above-named powers and the king of the Bullfinches, shall be revived and confirmed, in all their articles, which are not derogatory to the present.

XXIV.

The prisoners made by the kings of the Rooks, Jackdaws, Goldfinches, and Bullfinches, shall reciprocally be restored. And each king shall respectively pay the advances which shall have been made for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners, by the king of the nation where they shall have been detained.

XXV. That

XXV.

To prevent all causes of complaints and disputes, which may arise on account of plunder taken: It is reciprocally agreed, that the said plunder, which may be taken on the common and parts adjacent, after the space of a day, to be computed from the ratification, shall be restored on both sides.

That the term shall be six days for all plunder taken, between the Common and the Barn-yard.

And three weeks for all plunder taken in Caterpillar-land. And six weeks for Moss-land.

XXVI.

The ratifications of these articles shall be expedited and exchanged as soon as possible. In witness whereof, we, the under-written plenipotentiaries, in virtue of our respective full powers, have signed these articles.

OWL. MARTIN. SNIPE.

Declaration relative to the XIIIth article.

His majesty the king of the Jackdaws declares, that, in agreeing to the thirteenth article

ticle of the treaty, he does not mean to renounce the right of acquitting his debts due to his allies ; nor is the remittance of such arrears to be considered as an infraction of the said article. In witness whereof, &c.

MARTIN.

Such were the articles of peace agreed on between the high and mighty nations of Rooks and Jackdaws. They were received with the most unfeigned joy by the latter ; but not so by the former. The Rooks had made such great and important conquests, that the whole kingdom expected to keep some of the most important of them, to reimburse part of their immense expences.

However, the ministry, on the conclusion of it, kept the articles thereof secret, till they were laid before the general assembly, or senate, of Rooks, for their approbation. The Rook, who conducted affairs, was not very uneasy about the complection of that senate, notwithstanding the opposition of old Buzard : He knew how many of its members were absolutely under his feet, as a minister ; and he took care to strengthen his interest by every means he could devise. He
secured

secured Owl's whole interest, by making Woodcock keeper of the King's household-nest, a post of very great importance; and sending Quail to govern the grove of oaks, which formed part of his master's dominions on the Common.

Woodcock was a young Rook of very great hopes; he had an exceeding good character, and was generally beloved by those that knew him; he had married a relation of Owl's; and so, whether he liked it or not, that ambitious bird would have him accept of the keepership; he refused it for some time; and at last took it, on condition of its not tying him down at all to the royal nest, but left him as much at liberty as before.

Quail was a very different bird: Report said that he did not abound much in very good qualities; as to his abilities, they were but so so.----Thus the ministerial Rook took care to secure Owl; and as for all those who would not support his measures, why, he drove them out of the royal nest, and took others in their places; amongst those who did not like him, was Starling; a strange wretch! who had few, or no qualities, that were good for any thing to recommend him; he

he was closely connected with Buzard; they were a couple of very strange Rooks: Buzard always said, he loved him dearly; and he used, when he had drank too much rain water, to play strange antic tricks with Starling; indeed they were neither of them famous for their sobriety.

The ministerial Rook went on furiously to model the lower tree according to his interests, that they might approve of his management. At last they met, and every senatorial Rook being seated on his respective nest, which all joined, and the necessary ceremonies being over, the articles of peace were laid before them. Those Rooks who, from time to time, had the task of making peace, when they had concluded treaties, always endeavoured to get them approved of; because if their interest was not great, they might lose their brains for a misdemeanor.

The articles being read to the Rooks who were perched upon the upper tree, Blackbird proposed to them, that each Rook should pluck out the first feather in his wing, and present it to the king for his having concluded such a most honourable and advantageous Peace. "A peace, my noble Rooks, which
" will

“ will be attended with infinite consequences
 “ to our latest posterity : By this admirable
 “ treaty, we have gained possession of such a
 “ prodigious dominion, that this nation will
 “ feel, will feel, my noble Rooks, the be-
 “ nefit of it for ever, if future administrations
 “ have but the resolution to preserve what the
 “ invincible conduct of the present has gained.
 “ It is astonishing, that our very excellent
 “ minister was able to extend his fatherly
 “ care to all our extensive interests ; yet he
 “ has done it ; nobly done it. He has not
 “ only preserved the colonies in the Farm-
 “ yard secure ; he has not only defined limits,
 “ but my Rooks, he has gained the whole
 “ dominion of the enemy to himself : Such
 “ an admirable article would alone stamp
 “ this peace for the most excellent one
 “ that ever was concluded. I shall not en-
 “ quire into any other articles ; my profession
 “ is to see, that one Rook does not wrong an-
 “ other : It is not to examine treaties ; but
 “ this noble one well deserves our best fea-
 “ thers.” Here Blackbird rested ; he was a
 bird of very great abilities, and famous for
 the argumentative part of eloquence. No
 Rook ever handled any subject that required

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a sub-

a subtle examination in so masterly a manner ;
 he was formerly thought a proper opponent
 to Magpye ; but he had not impudence enough
 to withstand him. He was seconded in his
 speech by Curlieu, who said : “ My Rooks,
 “ I speak in this assembly but seldom ; but I
 “ cannot let a point of such great consequence
 “ pass without troubling you with my senti-
 “ ments on it : I cannot but second Black-
 “ bird’s motion, as I think the peace lately
 “ concluded an exceeding good one. That
 “ noble Rook observed what great care the
 “ makers of it had taken to secure our settle-
 “ ments at the Farm-yard : Let me add, my
 “ Rooks, that no less care and earnest atten-
 “ tion has been given to that most beneficial
 “ commerce of fly-catching : Of all the four-
 “ ces of our power and riches, none are more
 “ considerable than the fly-trade : Not to men-
 “ tion how necessary a part of our diet arise
 “ from this commerce ; our exportation of
 “ them brings us in vast sums, and employs
 “ prodigious numbers of poor Rooks. The
 “ Jackdaws, before the late war, had most of
 “ this trade in their hands ; but now, my
 “ Rooks, by the good conduct of our mini-
 “ stry, we have just the same as acquired the
 “ whole

“ whole trade to ourselves. And then, as to
 “ the Caterpillar-trade, upon my conscience,
 “ I think our governors acted very right there
 “ too ; caterpillars are but an unwholesome
 “ food ; so I think it was much better let our
 “ enemies, the Jackdaws, poison themselves
 “ with it, if they please. I ask pardon, my
 “ Rooks, for troubling you ; but really on
 “ such points I must speak a little.”

Mackaw heard this ridiculous speech with indignation ; he was a Rook of no great abilities ; but he had very good common sense, and a great share of popularity. He stretched his wings, and began as follows : ‘ That
 ‘ noble Rook, who says he troubles the tree
 ‘ but seldom, must give me leave to say, that
 ‘ it would be as well, if he was not to trouble it at all, unless he would say something
 ‘ more to the purpose. Far be it from me to
 ‘ cavil at a treaty, which will not admit of
 ‘ objections ; but I humbly apprehend, that
 ‘ the present one is of such a nature, that this
 ‘ nation must suffer infinitely from it. The noble
 ‘ Rook has asserted, that the makers of this
 ‘ peace have done the same as ruin the Jack-
 ‘ daw fly-catching trade ; nothing can be false.
 ‘ I agree with him, that that commerce

' is of infinite advantage to us ; so great in-
 ' deed, that the enemy ought not to have been
 ' left in possession of the least share of it. Far
 ' from having secured it to ourselves, our ac-
 ' tive and enterprising antagonists will soon
 ' convince us of the contrary. They will
 ' darken the sky with their flights to Fly-land ;
 ' they will employ a prodigious number of
 ' Jackdaws in carrying the dried flies to fo-
 ' reign markets, to our infinite prejudice. The
 ' Willow-trees, which are by this treaty grant-
 ' ed them, my Rooks, are finely situated for
 ' their business ; they have nothing to do but
 ' to skim a-cross the canal from these trees,
 ' and catch prodigious numbers of flies ; they
 ' will make the best of them, and we shall,
 ' one time or other, feel the fatal effects of
 ' leaving them in their hands. The noble
 ' Rook, who spoke last, also asserts, that as
 ' caterpillars are an unwholesome food, the
 ' ministry did right in restoring our noble ac-
 ' quisitions in those parts. Perhaps earth-
 ' worms may be more wholesome ; but is that
 ' any reason why we should give up a most va-
 ' luable branch of commerce to the Jackdaws ?
 ' Surely, my Rooks, the absurdity of such ar-
 ' guments must appear very strongly to you.
 ' The

' The Jackdaws are a busy, enterprizing race,
 ' and if their monarch was not to keep their
 ' spirits employed to their country's good, we
 ' should soon see how much more powerful
 ' we should prove. It is their trade which
 ' renders them so formidable; it brings all
 ' kinds of artificers to them from all parts of
 ' the world; encreases the numbers of their
 ' subjects, and employs all their poor. Were
 ' we but once to cut off the sources of their
 ' commerce, we should no longer find them
 ' so formidable; these sources are their settle-
 ' ments; and particularly those of Fly-land
 ' and Catterpillar-land, we should have kept
 ' both; but, perdition seize us, my Rooks,
 ' we have given both up: How ill have those
 ' pernicious Rooks served their country, who
 ' agreed to such highly injurious terms!'

Next old Buzard, fluttering his decrepid
 wings, buzzed forth: ' Oh! my Rooks! my
 ' Rooks! This is a very wicked, sad peace;
 ' I do not know one good article in it: I will
 ' engage to point out to you many bad ones.
 ' In the first place, they should have secured
 ' to us, as the noble Rook, who spoke last,
 ' observed; they should have secured, I say,
 ' the fly-trade; but they did not. We ought
 ' to

' to have had the Catterpillar-acquisitions ce-
 ' ded to us for ever ; but, but, my Rooks,
 ' we had not. Oh ! it is a very, very sad
 ' peace ; I know not one good article in it.
 ' The scheme of it was wrong ; and, when
 ' we consider the makers, my Rooks, how can
 ' we wonder at it ? Indeed, I would not at-
 ' tack any Rook's character ; but to see this
 ' great nation suffer so in its interest and ho-
 ' nour ! it hurts me, it touches me nearly. I
 ' I have a great affection for this nation. When
 ' I was a minister myself, I took great care of
 ' it ; but, my Rooks, this peace will ruin it.
 ' I am old, and I prophesy, my Rooks, that
 ' it will, in the end, be our ruin.'

It must be confessed, that this was a migh-
 ty *clear* and *eloquent* speech ; yet it had not the
 effect which Buzard expected ; for no Rook
 thought it worth an answer. So Swan held
 forth as follows, the whole tree giving him
 great attention :

' My Rooks, in such a debate as this, in
 ' which the safety, honour, and welfare of a
 ' great nation are concerned, we ought to
 ' proceed with candour, to examine with
 ' coolness, and to judge impartially. We
 ' ought neither to be blinded with the noisy
 ' com-

' complaints of the multitude ; nor prejudiced
 ' by any party-connections. Let us consider
 ' this peace, without thinking of those who
 ' made it. It is things, not men, that ought
 ' to be the objects of our enquiry. The fly-
 ' catching trade is one of the most beneficial
 ' which this nation ever enjoyed ; it not only
 ' brings in great riches, but it employs a vast
 ' multitude of Rooks : The Jackdaws, by
 ' former treaties, which, I must own, were
 ' very bad ones, had a share granted them in
 ' this invaluable commerce : That share they
 ' increased prodigiously ; so that it has proved
 ' one of the most important sources of their
 ' power. The caterpillar trade also was
 ' worth immense sums yearly, and greatly
 ' increased their riches ; the moss trade was
 ' another branch, which was attended with
 ' the same effects. All these articles of com-
 ' merce the bravery of our troops had gained
 ' us, conquering the enemies settlements.
 ' The war, my Rooks, was not of our seek-
 ' ing, our enemy was the aggressor ; they in-
 ' croached on us, and forced us into it.
 ' Heaven be praised, we were successful ; but
 ' our success was purchased at a vast expence.
 ' We have increased our national debt to a-
 ' bove

'bove 130,000 cockchafers wings: How
 'are we to pay the interest of this enormous
 'sum, if we do not retain some of our best
 'conquests, to encrease our trade, and, by
 'that means, our riches! Shall we therefore,
 'my Rooks, by restoring our acquisitions, de-
 'stroy our ability to bear the burthen of our
 'debt? Yet such an evident tendency has this
 'peace, it restores what our bravery has
 'won; and what our enemy can never re-
 'conquer: No, my Rooks, I can never offer
 'one feather to the makers of a peace, which
 'I honestly think will be attended with so
 'many evil consequences.'

This was a sensible speech; and King
 Fisher, being of the same party and opinion,
 he seconded him: He was a young Rook of
 great rank, but still greater merit; affable, ho-
 nest, and sincere, his amiable qualities added
 a pleasing grace to his shining abilities. He
 said, 'My Rooks, I think no true lover of
 'his country can be silent, when the most
 'pernicious measures are openly avowed:
 'How can our ministers have the assurance
 'to bring such terms of peace for us to thank
 'them for? Such a conduct little deserves to
 'be praised. Terms, in themselves so highly
 detri-

' detrimental to the kingdom, and which we
 ' ought to reject with disdain, than sanctify.
 ' Unhappy country! to have the administra-
 ' tion of our affairs taken from the hands of
 ' the best Rooks in it, and placed in those of
 ' the worst. This peace is the proof of the
 ' present ministry's abilities: This peace, so
 ' injurious to our honour and interest! Every
 ' conquest of importance, we have acquired
 ' at the expence of so much blood and trea-
 ' sure, restored for nothing. The Jackdaws,
 ' my Rooks, have absolutely tricked, and out-
 ' witted us in every article. Seeming to give
 ' up the fly-catching, they got the cession of
 ' the two willow-trees, which, in fact, will
 ' give them a quarter share more than ever
 ' they had. And, under the pretended re-
 ' striction of not catching within the three
 ' feet of the bank, they can, at any time, fly
 ' to the bank, and dispose of their manufac-
 ' tures to the Rooks, to our infinite detriment:
 ' The same senseless management appears in
 ' letting them remain in the possession of the
 ' ruins on the side of the row of Elms: At first
 ' sight this appeared to be a good article; but
 ' then we see this stroke of Jackdaw cun-
 ' ning, which ruins the whole: All the tract
 I ' they

' they cede us, without that ruin, and the nook
 ' it stands on, is worth nothing ; they can, at
 ' at any time, invade us from it, and abso-
 ' lutely command the whole course of the
 ' Row of Elms. Then, my Rooks, in Cat-
 ' terpillar-land, our ministry were again
 ' choused ; they gave up all our conquests ;
 ' some of which we ought certainly to have
 ' kept ; and there remained the disputed tracts.
 ' We are to have the two little bean-beds ;
 ' but the Jackdaws secured the pea-bed to
 ' themselves, the only one, of the three, worth
 ' possessing. Then, in another quarter, we
 ' restore them the Sunny-tower, and the Ash-
 ' trees, and keep the Oaks ourselves. Now,
 ' my Rooks, the former, from their situ-
 ' ation, render the latter absolutely useless ;
 ' and for that reason, I suppose, our wise ne-
 ' gotiator kept it. There is hardly an ar-
 ' ticle, but gives us specimens of the same
 ' management : By the fifth, the fortified
 ' nests in the formidable Beech-tree are to be
 ' demolished ; which is meer trumpery, my
 ' Rooks ; for the strongest nest of all is to
 ' remain, under the ridiculous pretence of de-
 ' fending the Jackdaws from the wind. In
 ' Moss-land, we are likewise to restore all ;
 ' and

‘ and the Jackdaw king has the assurance to
 ‘ talk of restitutions, where he never made a
 ‘ conquest ; and our ministers had the mean-
 ‘ ness to suffer it. In short, my Rooks, it would
 ‘ be endless to point out all the absurdities,
 ‘ and terrible consequences, which must in-
 ‘ evitably attend this wretched peace : The
 ‘ task is equally disagreeable and melancholy ;
 ‘ but I desist.’

This speech, which was very just, and ex-
 tremely to the purpose, hurt Peacock very
 much ; he therefore, fluttering his wings,
 pronounced as follows : ‘ It ill becomes me,
 ‘ my Rooks, after what that noble one has
 ‘ just said, to be silent : As to the reflections
 ‘ which he has thrown out of a private nature,
 ‘ I shall not trouble the tree with a retalia-
 ‘ tion ; but shall, at any time, be ready to
 ‘ answer them on another tree, and in another
 ‘ manner. The peace which the servants of
 ‘ his majesty have concluded with the Jack-
 ‘ daws by his command, I must assert, is an
 ‘ exceeding good one : As for the share which
 ‘ I had in it, I advised the conclusion of it :
 ‘ and, my Rooks, if this nation, when I am
 ‘ no more, would pay my memory a pecu-
 ‘ liar compliment, let them engrave the terms

' of it on my nest. Let the articles be ex-
 ' mined with candour, and the present cla-
 ' mours, which are as unjust as they are low,
 ' will surely cease. The Jackdaws, so far
 ' from having deceived the king's negotiator,
 ' have not gained one advantage by this trea-
 ' ty, of which he was not very sensible. The
 ' ministry, my Rooks, know very well, that
 ' many great and important conquests are re-
 ' stored to the enemy; but those restitutions
 ' were matters of necessity, not choice, nor
 ' the effects of negligence. The Jackdaws
 ' would never have a peace, that left almost
 ' the whole of that vastly advantageous trade
 ' of Catterpillars in our hands. Can we ima-
 ' gine, that their whole nation would become
 ' dependent on us for so necessary a part of
 ' their diet as Catterpillars? Impossible; it is
 ' the same as thinking they would yield up all
 ' the fly-catching commerce: So by keeping
 ' of Catterpillar-land we at once deprived
 ' them of the valuable articles of Catterpillars
 ' Beans, Peas, &c. &c. and, by the latter, we
 ' took from them all their flies. The same
 ' Rooks would have had all Moss-land ours!
 ' Excellent treaty, upon my honour! So the
 ' poor Jackdaws were to be half-starved, by
 ' giving

' giving up the first ; and deprived of the
 ' means of building their nests, by the last ar-
 ' ticles ! I wonder how any Rook can be so
 ' absurd as to imagine, they would ever have
 ' agreed to such terms ; and, my Rooks, they
 ' could carry on the war much longer than
 ' we ; for although our commerce and public
 ' state wears such a pompous countenance ;
 ' yet, my Rooks, you must all be sensible,
 ' this shew is in part deceitful, we labour un-
 ' der a most immense debt ; and war has
 ' greatly injured our internal trade, by taking
 ' off such vast numbers of hands. In circum-
 ' stances like these, what moderate and sen-
 ' sible Rook is there, but would prefer a tole-
 ' rable peace, to the continuance of a war, so
 ' ruinous and fatal ?

' As to several articles, which the noble
 ' Rook, who spoke last, attempted to ridi-
 ' cule, they are far from being proper objects
 ' for his wit : The Jackdaws never outwitted
 ' the king's negotiator. And so far from there
 ' being any concealed advantages for our ene-
 ' mies in those articles, they are all plain,
 ' really as efficacious as they seem ; this all
 ' Rooks allow, who, it is well known, un-
 ' derstand these matters : Having, I think, re-
 ' plied

‘plied to that noble Rook’s arguments, or,
 ‘rather, loose assertions, I shall trouble you
 ‘no longer.’

In the upper tree, when the Rooks came to count Bills, they found that the ministry, according to custom, had a vast majority : Let us now see how matters went in the lower tree. I shall pass by some inconsiderable Rooks, who spoke, and give the reader the speech of Magpye, whose sentiments were conveyed in the following terms . ‘Rooks !
 ‘the point on which we are now debating,
 ‘requires our closest examination : It is no
 ‘less than either condemning, or giving a
 ‘sanction to a transaction big with most important consequences. No member of this
 ‘tree can be more ready than I am, to praise
 ‘our ministers, when I can lay my hand upon my heart, and say, I think they deserve
 ‘it. If the peace now concluded, be a safe
 ‘and honourable one ; let us heartily rejoice
 ‘at the good effects attending the government’s endeavour to procure such a great
 ‘blessing to his Majesty’s subjects : But if it
 ‘does not prove worthy of our approbation,
 ‘let us, my Rooks, condemn it ; let us bewail the misfortune of the nation, in having
 her

' her interests neglected by those, who ought
 ' to take the greatest care of them. The state
 ' of this kingdom, notwithstanding our great
 ' and glorious successes, is extremely critical :
 ' Our debt is prodigiously encreased, that eve-
 ' ry year of war adds fatally to the amount ;
 ' and had we continued this devouring and
 ' extensive one longer, a small change of suc-
 ' cess would, perhaps, have been attended
 ' with very terrible consequences to our pub-
 ' lic credit ; for which reasons I cannot but
 ' think a peace was highly necessary, to se-
 ' cure to us a reasonable part of our great and
 ' glorious conquests, by way of some indem-
 ' nification for our prodigious expences. Yet,
 ' my Rooks, let vengeance overtake the Rook,
 ' however sublimed by greatness, with the
 ' villainy of a Catiline, would mount to se-
 ' cure power on the ruins of his country. If
 ' a minister in this nation, this free, this ge-
 ' nerous nation, dares to forget her interest ;
 ' dares to let his own come in competition
 ' with his country's, let us destroy the wretch !
 ' let us punish him for his crimes, and no
 ' longer admit him to enjoy the protection of
 ' that constitution, which his wickedness
 ' would overturn : But, on the contrary, my
 Rooks,

' Rooks, if we meet with a minister, whose
 ' aim, whose constant endeavour is to sup-
 ' port the interest and glory of the nation ;
 ' who preserves her when she is in danger,
 ' who elevates her power, and renders her
 ' reputation bright as the sun in heaven ; let
 ' us, my Rooks, embrace that valuable Rook,
 ' and wear him in our heart of hearts. I
 ' shall draw no pictures of those ministers,
 ' who now guide the affairs of this nation ;
 ' I think that it is highly to their honour,
 ' their having advised his majesty to conclude
 ' the present one. It is a good peace, my
 ' Rooks ; I had it not in my power to pro-
 ' cure so good a one : But, my Rooks, I do
 ' not approve of suffering the Jackdaws to
 ' possess a share of the fly-catching trade ;
 ' that is invaluable. It will for ever prove a
 ' mine of infinite wealth to whatever nation
 ' possess it. That trade, my Rooks, well
 ' deserved the nicest care and attention : But
 ' it undoubtedly would have been very diffi-
 ' cult to have brought the Jackdaws to con-
 ' clude a peace that stripped them of their
 ' most valuable branches of commerce. The
 ' Jackdaws are a great and powerful nation,
 ' and they certainly would never have given
 ' up

' up their best possessions. The Catterpillar-
 ' trade also, my Rooks, is one of the most ad-
 ' vantageous in the world: It brings in vast
 ' wealth to those who conduct it; and it
 ' safely may be asserted, that no colonies are
 ' more advantageous than those which are set-
 ' tled in Catterpillar-land. But, my Rooks, could
 ' it be expected, that the king of the Jack-
 ' daws would consent to yield us up every
 ' conquest we made in the late glorious war?
 ' No: Our most ardent hopes could not ex-
 ' tend so far. I think, my Rooks, the peace
 ' might have been better: For our ministers
 ' certainly might have insisted on the cession
 ' of the ruins on our side of the row of
 ' elms; but then it was not worth giving up the
 ' benefits of peace for them. In regard to our
 ' concerns with the Goldfinches, I could, like
 ' all true Rooks, have wished for the constant
 ' possession of what we conquered from them
 ' in Catterpillar-land; it would have been
 ' highly advantageous to have kept them;
 ' but, great, as it would be, we must never
 ' have expected a peace, had we insisted on
 ' such a condition. ----- I mentioned, my
 ' Rooks, the greatness of our national debt;
 ' yet, great as it is, I am persuaded that our
 K 'credit

' credit was so great, that we might have
 ' carried on the war for years: And surely,
 ' my Rooks; our enemies the Jackdaws and
 ' Goldfinches would have felt the sad effects
 ' of it more than we, whose trade is in the
 ' most flourishing situation, whilst theirs is
 ' absolutely ruined. I submit these points
 ' to the consideration of the tree; and if I
 ' do not think the peace so good as it might
 ' have been, I heartily rejoice at its conclu-
 ' sion.'

In this speech the whole world read PEN-
 SION in great letters. Magpye was one of
 those who called themselves the opposition;
 and when he formerly appeared in that cha-
 racter, it was not in ambiguous and doubtful
 hesitating speeches; but all the impetuous
 lightning of eloquence was poured out in an
 overbearing torrent against ministers: No-
 thing could then withstand the thunder of his
 oratory; it bore down all opposition, and was
 always terrible to bad ministers. But now
 the case was changed: Whatever he thought
 of the peace, he had not the liberty to speak
 his sentiments; his tongue, which used to
 chatter so vehemently on such occasions, was
 now tied: He no longer possessed that noble
 inde-

independency of soul, which is the only true characteristic of greatness; he had stooped to a vile pension, and his aspiring ambition was now grovelling in the dust. The next Rook who spoke, was Sparrow Hawk.

He was a bird of boundless abilities, industry, and application: Young as he was, he was one of the most important Rooks in the tree: He had great eloquence, spoke with vast dignity and clearness: He had almost every advantage, a manly person, and a graceful action; and, what was not the least perfection, a most consummate assurance; which nothing could daunt: His bronze had, more than once, proved a very seasonable friend to him. It is not therefore to be wondered, that the ministers wanted to make the most of such a bird: He possessed a very great post, they persuaded him to resign it, to give his opinion in the tree the greater weight, promising to restore it to him again speedily, or something better. The king of the Rooks was a great author, so when a sudden conception struck him, Sparrow-Hawk, by his post, waited in a neighbouring nest, to minute it down: He might be called the monarch's secretary. He spoke as follows:

K 2

‘My

' MyFellow-Rooks ! the subject of our debates
 ' isworthy, even the guardian care of providence
 ' itself. Let us watch the conclusion of a
 ' a peace, as we would mark the hand that
 ' was either to raise us to the most glorious
 ' pitch of honour ; or, by planting a dagger in
 ' our bosoms, give the last blow to expiring
 ' liberty ! This peace is pregnant with the fate
 ' of kingdoms ; let us not hearken to the
 ' voice of those, the general current of whose
 ' souls is froze with mean, interested confide-
 ' rations. Let independency speak : Un-
 ' placed, unpenioned, I will utter none but
 ' the dictates of my free soul ; too proud to
 ' stoop to ministerial influence ; too honest,
 ' not to regret my ever having deigned to de-
 ' scend so low. But, my Rooks, had I ten
 ' thousand tongues, they would be too few
 ' to speak the praises of this most excellent
 ' peace ! Let us fly to our houses ; let us
 ' fall upon our knees, and breathe forth our
 ' thanks to heaven for a treaty, which should
 ' be wrote among the stars ; there to re-
 ' main the blessing of our times, and the
 ' wonder of futurity ! A peace, which not
 ' only raises our national character to the
 ' highest pinnacle of renown ; but scatters,
 ' with

' with a bountiful hand, all the blessings of
 ' plenty, commerce, and riches. We now,
 ' my Rooks, are in possession of the trade
 ' of the whole world: We are now the
 ' greatest, and most respectable nation upon
 ' earth! We are not only triumphant over
 ' our enemies; but, in the midst of the car-
 ' reer of victory, our heaven-born sovereign
 ' stops his conquering hand, and listens to
 ' the call of humanity. He grants peace to
 ' his enemies, and gives happiness to the
 ' world!'

This speech had a wonderful effect; but
 the ministry, without it, were secure of their
 expectations. They had a vast majority; so
 the treaty was confirmed, and thanks return-
 ed for it. Thus did the Rooks, after a long
 and bloody war, which cost them mines of
 wealth, and rivers of their best blood, con-
 clude a shameful peace, whereby all their
 great and glorious advantages were given a-
 way by a dash of the pen. Their nests no
 longer abounded in plenty of the finest flies,
 Catterpillars, beans, peas, moss, twigs, &c.
 &c. These noble articles of merchandize
 were now ceded to the Jackdaws; so that
 old Rook-land was obliged to sit down with
 a small

a small share of them, while their enemies exulted in their approaching prosperity; fully determined, that as they had now disarmed the Rooks, they would once more recover their losses in peace; and again try the effect of a war, knowing that their enemy, burthened with the expences of the last, would not be in a condition to prove so formidable in another.

Such is the policy of the Jackdaws; and such the folly of the Rooks!

F I N I S.

